THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 219.

COLONEL M'MAHON.

It is really pitiable, and gives one a deplorable notion of the policy of our Rulers, to see the extraordinary pains taken to settle this domestic in a situation obnoxious to the country. There are fifty obscure places at Court, for which he is qualified, and in which he might be put without provoking a word of comment, and yet our illustrious Statesmen, as if they took a congenial delight in seeing little people making a great noise, must raise the talk of the nation about him, and bring into universal play a name that was never intended by nature, any more than their own, to go beyond the circle of an anti-room or a boudoir. An innocent observer might have supposed, that when the attempt to make him Paymaster of Widows' Pensions was found to be too barefaced an abuse even for Parliament to tolerate, the heroes of that baffled exploit would have been somewhat chary of returning to a similar charge. Not so. The Ministers would think themselves weak indeed (such is their notion of strength of mind!) if they could not revenge one unsuccessful piece of obnoxiousness by proving themselves able to be guilty of a greater; and however desirable it might have been, in the first instance, to keep the PRINCE's servant out of public view, no such *concession*, as they would term it, was to be made upon after circumstances: some place or other was to be found for him, much more obnoxious than the latter, much more provocative of comment; and able to wipe away in its success all blot of their former disgrace:—this would at once console all the chagrined parties for their defeat, and turn the opposing parties into heaviness for their triumph;—and in the twinkling of an eye, Colonel M'MAHON becomes a Privy Counsellor and Private Secretary to the REGENT with a salary of two thousand pounds a year.

The opponents of the Court are struck with the desired astonishment at this latter appointment. What, say they,—do you come upon the nation with another burthensome demand, and for an office too, of which English history furnishes no example?

The present KING, say the Ministers, had a Private Secretary of late years.

True; but he was then blind and infirm:—he had done without one during the whole former period of his reign.

He had so; but *every body* was *astonished* at it.

Then every body must have been astonished at every King who has sat on the throne, and we are to conclude that it is a very astonishing thing in a King to perform the duties of his office.

No: but consider the difference between the KING and the PRINCE REGENT:—the former was educated to habits of industry, and came young to the sovereignty; the latter enters upon his office at a late period of life, and cannot be expected to have that aptness for business,—that facility of application.

In plain terms, you would prove to us that he is indolent and detests business:—it makes for your point to do so:—had it been otherwise, you would have shewn us that his late time of life,—his experienced age,—was a reason why he should have none of the giddiness of youth.

Well, giddy or not, indolent or industrious, it would be impossible for the PRINCE REGENT to do without a Secretary, because business has so increased during the last eight years: in fact, he would be almost suffocated in official papers unless he had some hand to prevent their accumulation.

Ha! ha! That is pleasant enough, particularly as we have little or no foreign business whatsoever,—a very different state of things from that in which his MAJESTY came to the throne.—But granting that the PRINCE cannot do what his father did, that he has none of his father's good habits (a fact which we are not disposed to deny), and that he must have a person to collect papers for him, and put them into his hand, as we give their horn-books to children, still it does not appear at all necessary that his assistant should be a Privy Counsellor and have a large salary at the public expense. In his capacity of Counsellor he must be adviser as well as a manual assistant to his master, and must therefore enjoy singular and most objectionable opportunities of influence; and as to the salary, we think it would have been decent at any rate to have it paid out of the PRINCE's own pocket, especially as his ROYAL HIGHNESS has lately had large sums of money furnished him, with the express object, among others, of paying his private servants. In short, it appears to us that a Secretary so constituted is nothing but an additional Secretary of State, a go-between for the two sets of advisers enjoyed by his ROYAL HIGHNESS, and a new, indecorous, and unconstitutional burden upon the country.

Mere declamation! Fit only to turn a period in a newspaper! For our parts, we do not see a word of truth in all that you have said:—it is nothing but calumny and wilful misrepresentation; and with regard to the Whig part of you, we should be glad to know whether every body does not think you would have done just as much had you been in power yourselves. In a word, as to the unconstitutional nature of the office and *all that*, we appeal to the unbiassed and upright sense of this Honourable House,—a House in

which, it is well known, every thing is as it should be,—a House, which speaks the real sense of the people, that is to say, of all sensible people, or those who agree with ourselves,—and in which, if seats are bought and sold, it is only by honest and honourable men, who know that a wrong thing becomes a right one the moment it becomes notorious.

So saying, the business is settled by a majority; and this is a plain abstract of the objections and answers on the present occasion, as well as of the spirit in which such matters are settled in general. Now to a simple statement of the fact, as people of common sense talk of it, in a common, unsophisticated way.

The Home Secretary is the only proper and exquisite Officer recognized for this purpose by custom and the Constitution; and we see, that till his MAJESTY grew blind, he as well as his predecessors made use of no other. Now, that his MAJESTY was industrious at his desk and well discharged, while he could, the duty of signing papers, nobody will deny; but that there was any thing astonishing in such a circumstance, none but the most credulous, unthinking, or lazy people, can for an instant imagine. If there be, we should be under the necessity of having two Sovereigns instead of one, as was the case with the latter Roman Empire; but what European King would allow this. The truth was, that his MAJESTY was a temperate and domestic man and an early riser, and was therefore enabled to settle all his business with comfort to himself and find the proper hours for exercise and refection besides. He did not rise from a sluggish and bloated bed at noon-day:—he did not waste his hours in settling the cut of a hat, a coat, or a pair of whiskers: he did not make a long and important business of dinner, and then retire to throw away his evenings among the refuse of the upper ranks:—if he had done so, he would have had need of a Secretary from the moment he ascended the throne, and then we should have heard his Ministers defending the office upon the strength of his being a *young* man, instead of an old one. It is strange to see how shy the most independent men in Parliament are of asking a few plain questions, such as one man might put to another in common life respecting a character which it was necessary to understand. There is a something in the connections and party views of the best of them,—a chilling etiquette in the atmosphere in which they move—which hinders them from opening their lips freely, and uttering what they so well know how to say if they would:—otherwise, a question might have been put on this occasion respecting the number of daily hours which it takes the Sovereign to attend to the papers that are laid before him, and this would have settled the business immediately. Do they mean to say, that in general five or six hours would not be sufficient for all his ordinary official purposes, or at most, in times of uncommon pressure, six or seven? If they do, let them explain to us what he can have to occupy him, in spite of the many assistants he already possesses,—an explanation, by the bye, which we should have had already, had it been calculated to do them any service. But if they do not,—if five or six hours are enough, generally speaking, for the transaction of the Sovereign's official duties; to what does their argument amount respecting the habits of their present master, but that he is absolutely negligent of his duties, and that at his time of life we must be hopeless of seeing him act like a decent Prince? This is the plain, unadorned conclusion left upon one's mind by their own mode of reasoning; and so much for this part of the subject. In the second place, granting that the REGENT ought to have a private assistant of some kind, and allowing him as well as any other master, the liberty of using one of his servants as a hander of papers to him from one table to another, or from bundle marked A to pigeon-hole marked B, where is the necessity of making him a public officer, and putting the country to an expense for his maintenance? If the REGENT cannot afford to pay a servant of this nature out of the money allowed him for the payment of his servants, what does he do with his money? In what shameful way does he squander and misuse it? And if he can afford to do so, what is the pretence for not doing it? What are the feelings, which after all that has been done for him by the country in pecuniary matters, and after it has just furnished him with enormous and unaccounted sums, can suffer him to come thus upon us, charge after charge, with new and obnoxious offices invented for his domestics,—domestics without any claim upon us, offices without a shadow of pretence, and charges without an atom of right or delicacy? These questions, it is evident, are not to be answered without entering on such parts of his ROYAL HIGHNESS's private character, as the Ministers do not choose *now-a-days* to investigate. Times are altered, and what they would formerly take pains to publish in *books* of their own, they would now willingly handle as libels in the writings of another.

Such are the crooked ways, such the disreputable manœuvres, such the concealments, the palterings, the bad arguments, the tricks and disquietudes of the few, and the disgust of the many, which are sure to be produced when the order of minds is inverted in a state and littleness takes the place of greatness. One of the most frequent remarks which an observer is provoked to make in days like the present, is on the portentous greatness attainable by small minds and petty characters in every department of the state. In difficult times, it is desirable to see the prominent parts in life sustained by men who are beyond their age, or who at least can boast the very best of what the age affords in point of acquired knowledge, liberality of sentiment, and an undeniable and recordable spirit of superiority in every thing affecting action and discourse. Such men have never been wanting where there was judgment enough to find them out and spirit enough to employ them; but in proportion as the latter qualities have been

deficient, persons of a very different description have made their way into public notice; and where the choice of men in power depends upon the wants or the indolence of a feeble Prince, his subjects are sure to be disgusted with the sudden appearance of insignificant individuals in the most remarkable and imposing situations. English history has furnished us with complete examples in both these respects: and the last fifty years will certainly not be wanting in illustration, on one of them at least. Of the ministers and favourites, who have figured in that space of time, it may be safely asserted, generally speaking, that they had no more pretensions to their influence on the score of adequate merit, than Cardinal RICHLIEU or King JAMES had to the honours they obtained in authorship: the favourites, in particular, with the exception of the late Earl of LIVERPOOL, have been destitute of all solid recommendation; and if such men as the Marquis of BUTE and the Earl of YARMOUTH had been born in obscurity, they would as certainly have remained there, as the Cardinal and the King would have been confined to their respective Grub-streets. The former, perhaps, upon the strength of a decent cunning and pompous propriety, might have arrived at the dignity of churchwarden in his parish:—the latter would have made an excellent marker at a billiard-table, or, by a lucky push of his fortune, might have become confidential valet to some unfortunate heir, who did nothing but throw away his time, money, and reputation. It could not be difficult, in like manner, to settle the proper stations of contemporary great men. Mr. PERCEVAL, by his skill in small sophistries, and in setting people by the ears, should have been a village attorney, rendered more than usually subtle perhaps by a sharpening of Methodism. My Lord CASTLEREAGH, it is clear, would have cut a prepossessing figure as a negro-driver: Lord LIVERPOOL might have been the last, surviving hunter after the Philosopher's stone, or obtained a patent for sieves to carry us to Aleppo; and Mr. RYDER would have made a most comfortable and quiet watchman,—one of those conscientious guardians who know what belongs to their station, and "would rather sleep than talk." As to Colonel M'MAHON,——but enough of such a subject. It is an easy matter to settle what those persons ought to have been; but the amusement becomes a melancholy one, when we look up and see what they are.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

From the Journal De Paris, of April 10.

"If we take a view of the French Empire, we see that it now offers a developement of forces, perhaps unexampled. At the moment when nearly 800,000 men are marching from Hamburgh, the Wesel, Mayence, Verona, Munich, Dresden, and Berlin, to take a position upon the Oder and the Vistula; whilst 50,000 men form camps of reserve for the protection of the coast of France, Italy, the kingdom of Naples, and the Illyrean provinces; and that six armies, amounting to nearly 300,000 men, are in the Peninsula, fifty battalions are in march from different points, to replace in Spain seven or eight regiments which have been recalled, and some detachments of the Imperial Guard; 6000 cavalry have set out from the depots to reinforce that same army, and all this is done without effort, without extraordinary means, without bustle; at the same time, considerable fleets are equipped and armed; several vessels will, in the course of the summer, be completed in Toulon; several are constructing at Venice; one has been launched at Genoa; many others are upon the stocks at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Cherbourg, and Rochefort.—The funds to be appropriated to ships, roads, canals, bridges, new basins, and dock-yards, are, as we are assured, more considerable than that of last year; the construction of a new basin at the mouth of the Loire is talked of; the road from Hamburgh to Wesel will this year be finished; thus a route of more than eighty leagues, costing more than ten millions, will have been finished in less than two years.—The road from Amsterdam to Antwerp occupies three depots of workmen; six of the same are employed upon that which coasts the Miditerranean from Nice to Rome, that from Parma to Spizzia. The causeway from Bourdeaux to Bayonne, across Les Landes, will be finished this season. Roads which will cross the Barri in different directions are, it is said, in contemplation, and the establishment of a direct communication with Saragossa, by levelling the Pyrenees at a great number of points.—The Basin of Flushing will be completely finished before the month of June; 30 vessels, completely armed, will be able to enter it, an advantage which the old Basin did not possess, in which ships could not enter without having their guns taken out.—This year the Elbe has been sounded, and it is understood that river possesses similar advantages to those possessed by the Scheldt; it has fine harbours, basins, and an arsenal for building will be established there.—The works of the strong fortresses are pursued with equal activity. Three forts have been constructed at the Helder; forts Morlands, Dogominur, and La Salle, are entirely completed, and covered by inundations. Batteries defend the passage of the Helder and protect the squadron; a basin and a maritime establishment have been decreed, and will be commenced this year; already would three months open trenches be required to take the Helder, that key of Zuiderzee and Holland."

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Sunday morning the village of Hankelow, near Nantwich, was alarmed by a report that George Murray, farmer, had been murdered during the preceding night, having been found with his brains dashed out, and his throat cut from ear to ear! It was supposed that the crime had been perpetrated by some villains, who had entered his house for plunder; and his wife affected complete ignorance of the awful transaction. Traces of blood from the bed of the deceased were found. On examining the servant-man, blood was found on his shirt. An officer was sent for, and the man taken into custody. When the constable was taking him to a Magistrate, he said, "Well, I suppose I must be hanged;" and on being pressed for his meaning, confessed, that the murder of his master was determined upon between his mistress and himself; that in the night they fell upon him with an axe, and beat him about the head, until they thought him dead, and struck out one of his eyes; they then left him, but he was yet living; they returned to

their work of blood, and again retired, under the persuasion that he had breathed his last; they were still disappointed, and although the wife pressed the man to go and finish his master, he said he could not resume the task; and he refused, until she removed his scruples, by furnishing him with a razor; then the work was completed. He stated, that he had been urged to the horrid deed by his mistress, who wanted him to marry her. The constable unlocked the handcuffs with which he had locked himself to the prisoner, fastened the latter by the same instruments to an assistant, and ran back to take the wife.—When he entered the house, he told her the confession of the servant, and bid her prepare to accompany him. She covered her face with her apron, drew a razor from her breast, and ran it across her throat, making a deep incision. Mr. Bellis, surgeon, sewed up the wound, which is not considered dangerous. We have not heard the result of the examination before the Magistrate. The young man is about 19 years of age, the woman 40.—*Chester Paper.*

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

There was nothing of importance before this House last week, except the introduction of a Bill by Lord STANHOPE, for Improving the Condition of the Irish Peasantry—a work every way worthy of an honest legislator.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 13.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.—BARRACKS.

In the Committee of Supply, Mr. WHARTON moved—That a sum not exceeding 554,441*l.* be granted for the expences of the Barrack Department for the current year.

Mr. FREEMANTLE saw many things in those estimates, which appeared to him to require a great deal of explanation. The expense of the estimates for building barracks, appeared to be regularly increasing without any cause that he could see. After adverting to the expenses of the new buildings at Bexhill, he made many observations on the estimate of the new *barrack* projected to be built in what was called *the Regent's Park*. This barrack, which was only intended for the second regiment of Life Guards, was to cost 138,000*l.* Now it did appear to him that it was an enormous sum to call for in the present times for the lodging of a single regiment of horse. He could not well conceive a more profligate waste of the public money. At Liverpool it was also proposed to build a barrack for 1000 men, at the estimated expense of 82,000*l.* A new stable at Brighton was to cost 26,000*l.*; and a new barrack at Bristol for 800 men, was estimated at 60,000*l.* These were very large items, and required explanation.

Mr. WHARTON said, the regiment of Life Guards had hitherto kept their horses in rented barracks in King-street, but the term was expired, and if they were to be kept in barracks at all, it was necessary that they should be built. At Brighton the stables formerly used by the troops were in a most dilapidated state, and it was necessary, if troops were to be kept there at all, that new stables should be built. The necessity of building the barracks in the neighbourhood of Bristol arose from the circumstance of there being a considerable depot of French prisoners in the neighbourhood, amounting to eight or ten thousand men. If the necessity for the buildings were admitted, he would say that greater economy or more diligent superintendance could not be used with respect to the expence.

Mr. HUSKISSON objected to the estimates as being drawn up without any view of economy in the public expenditure. Notwithstanding, however, the greatness of the sum proposed to be voted, he doubted whether the buildings to be erected would correspond with those sums: he apprehended, for example, that the barracks for the Life Guards would present a sort of awkward magnificence, a something between a stable and a palace. With regard to the barracks at Bristol, he would wish to know if there was no other way of guarding the French prisoners, but by an expence of 60,000*l.*?

Mr. PARNELL wished to call their attention to one item: that of 25,000*l.* paid to the Commissioners for auditing General Delancey's accounts, during the five years that they have been employed upon them. If the public were to pay that yearly for the detection of official defaulters, he thought it would be better to let them go altogether unpunished.

Mr. WHARTON observed, that barracks for the Life Guards must be erected somewhere, if they were to be in barracks at all, for they could not remain where they now were. With regard to the 25,000*l.* for the Commissioners who were auditing General Delancey's accounts, he could assure the House that they had saved the public more than that sum.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that there was a real necessity for erecting new barracks for the Life Guards. The system of having the men diffused over the metropolis, away from their horses and accoutrements, he thought a very reprehensible one. What might have been the consequences, had such a system been in practice during the late disturbances? Might not the men have been intercepted by the mob, from reaching their stables, and the peace of the capital have been most seriously endangered?

Mr. WHITBREAD spoke to what he considered as the unconstitutional practice of separating the soldier from the citizen, a practice which he should always consider as one replete with danger to the country. Does the Right Honourable Gentleman, (continued Mr. Whitbread) through whose rash and preposterous measures, distress is now spreading over every part of the country, the loom is rendered useless, and the cries of hunger are stifled by the point of the bayonet, seriously imagine that he can go on three years longer, on his present system of increasing expenditure and decreasing resources? What consequence can finally result from a perseverance in such councils, but that we must finally conclude a peace with France, from the very necessities of our situation? I do believe that many great and glorious opportunities have been lost of accomplishing this event, and I believe the effect of our present system of policy will finally be to compel us to purchase a peace by submission. (*Hear, hear! from both sides.*)—It is my persuasion, too, that this disastrous period is not far distant, unless a great and entire change be made in that policy. As to the extension of the barracks in London, I can see no good reason for the proposed alteration; if the man and the horse have been heretofore separate, for what purpose are they to remain so no longer? Again, with respect to the barracks at Bristol, under an ostensible reference to the French prisoners, who I heartily wish were all out of the country, I remember this was the place where the grossest abuses have been discovered in the Barrack Department, and where, in fact, it has been proved, that what had been called barracks, were nothing more than a number of tottering old houses, without a window or a roof among them (*Hear, hear!*). On these grounds, I certainly shall oppose the Resolutions.

Mr. PERCEVAL observed, that the Hon. Gentleman had decided against the Resolutions without either waiting or asking for further information. He was at once ready to refuse accommodation to the Life Guards in London, to the military at Bristol, and when he arrived at Liverpool, as if to evince his zeal to smooth the difficulties of the times, to assuage the sufferings, and tranquillize the minds of the people, he deemed it wise and just and proper, to publish to them that it was his opinion, that their distresses arose not from the measures of the enemy, not from the wrathful visitations of Providence, but from the conduct of the Government at home—(*hear, hear!*)—It was at a moment like the present that the Hon. Gentleman thought it patriotic to ascribe all the pressure and starvation which he described to the measures of Administration. Did the Hon. Gentleman then mean gravely to assert, that the want of sufficient food which was now so severely felt, proceeded from the war with France)—(*hear, hear!*—Was he so blind as to trace such an effect to such a cause?—(*Hear, hear!*)—He had seen copies of several most false and inflammatory hand bills, but he had not anticipated the possibility that any Gentleman in that House would have deemed it consistent with his duty to

sanction them by his authority—(*Hear, hear!*—The Hon. Gentleman talked of former golden opportunities for making peace, but he confessed at the same time, that he knew not that it could be now made. Was it prudent then, in the Hon. Gentleman, who wished only for peace on honourable terms, to tell the world that a time was approaching when peace must be made on such terms as the enemy might dictate? If an honourable peace could not now be obtained, the war must go on, and he could not see the wisdom of saying in that House, or elsewhere, that we could not much longer carry on that war. He could conceive nothing more strongly calculated to poison the minds of the people, to sink the heart, the hope, and spirit of the Country, than the utterance of such opinions and prognostics—(*Hear, hear!*).—Whatever difficulties and hardships there might be in the situation of the country, or of individuals, it was a duty to be prepared to meet them with firmness. He was told, indeed, that they were all the consequences of his measures; and on what grounds? Would the Hon. Gentleman, if he had any candour in his mind, which he did not mean to deny, assert, that if the Orders in Council had never existed, the same or greater difficulties would not have been at this moment experienced? It was undeniable and notorious, that for the two years immediately subsequent to those Orders, there had been a prodigious increase of export trade. If the Hon. Gentleman did, indeed, in his speculations on peace, not know that the main feature of the French Ruler was unbounded and unprincipled ambition, and that the march of all his aims and policy was a march to universal empire, he had studied with less attention than he (Mr. Perceval) should have thought it possible, the true character and views of Bonaparte. To the accomplishment of these views the power and resources of this country presented the only formidable barrier. He was surprized that the Hon. Gentleman should seem ignorant of those things, but he was bound to believe this was the case, when he heard him proclaim to the country, that they were not to look at Bonaparte as their enemy and France as the cause of their calamities and sufferings, but to turn round to their own Government, and there to discover the true source and origin of their wants and of their starvation —(*hear, hear, hear!*).

Mr. WHITBREAD.—"If I were in any other place than the House of Commons, I would ask the loudest and the warmest of those who have cheered and supported the speech which has been just heard, whether it was not replete with the most gross misrepresentations? The triumph, therefore, in which the Right Hon. Gentleman and his partizans appeared to indulge, was a triumph not over me, but over the Right Hon. Gentleman's invention. Oh! to be sure, the House of Commons is a fine place; nothing but fair discussion, free debate and open doors; and yet it appears, that on this impartial stage a political adventurer, by the aid of a little cleverness in statement, or dexterity in argument, may arrive at that eminence, because nobody else will take it, from which he shall dictate what he will to this House, and find even his misrepresentions attended with applauding cheers.—(*Cries of Order, Order.*)

Mr. YORKE rose to order. The Hon. Gentleman had just made one of the most outrageous personal attacks on his Right Hon. Friend which had ever been heard in the House. With respect to the justice or propriety of the attack thus made, he—(*Cries of Order, Order!*)

Mr. PONSONBY rose to order.—[*Here the disorder became general, and cries of Chair! Chair! resounded through the House; at length Mr. Ponsonby obtained a hearing.*]—I call the Right Hon. Gentleman himself to order, and on this ground, that he having risen to call my Right Hon. Friend to order, did not confine himself to that point, but thought proper to advert to other topics, thereby transgressing the regulations of the House—(*Hear, hear!*)—I speak this before high authority, which will contradict me if I should be incorrect.

Mr. LUSHINGTON, the Chairman, then declared his opinion to be, that Mr. Whitbread had been out of order.

Mr. WHITBREAD then rose again, and confessed he had risen in some heat, and unconsciously at the time had exceeded the limits of debate. He would, however, say, that if he was described as having told the People that they were to regard the Government, rather than Bonaparte, as their enemy, it was a gross misrepresentation. Unfortunately it was too much a practice to identify the Government with the Minister, and convert the fair claims of the former to support and attachment, into a blind approbation of the measures of the latter. What ever might be the construction put upon his words, he was determined ever to speak out in the House of Commons—to conceal no part of the truth—and to lend no helping hand to the delusion, any more than to the ruin of the People. He knew nothing more likely to prove destructive to the safety and greatness of the People, than the prevalence of a different doctrine. He did not confound the visitations of Providence with the decrees of France, or the measures of the Right Hon. Gentleman. But he knew that thousands of manufacturers were now out of employment, and that tens of thousands were now working at reduced wages, which scarcely sufficed to procure them subsistence. Was he, when he declared this, telling the hungry man that he had no bread? He knew that an unreformed House of Commons had approved of all the proceedings of the Right Hon. Gentleman, and of all his Orders in Council, but he knew, too, that the People and Merchants out of the House, were, in every part of the kingdom, of very different opinions. Was not this table already covered with Petitions, that daily multiplied: and had he indeed abandoned all his patriotism, when he stated this? As to what he had said with respect to peace, how was it possible for him to speak positively as to the fitness of the present moment, but how could any time be found appropriate, unless the experiment were made? Would the Right Hon. Gentleman, looking back to that history in which he was so well read, pronounce it to be his opinion that we were hereafter likely to obtain such desirable conditions of peace, as might have been obtained at many former periods?—(*Hear, hear!*)—The Right Hon. Gentleman boasts of our being the great and only barrier to Bonaparte's desire of universal dominion. On this point there could be no dispute: and why were we so?—because it was the policy of the authors of this and the preceding war had made us so; had first made Bonaparte Consul for life, and afterwards, in alliance with his own talents, had made him Emperor, and enabled him to trample upon every hostile state. The same errors and fallacies were still circulated and still believed; one day Prussia was said to be arming against France, on another she was described as uniting her force to that of France, to assist in crushing the only independent state remaining on the Continent. It was his duty then to ask the People to be misled no longer by the fatal policy of Ministers; and he would ask the Right Hon. Gentleman himself, not to become the victim of his own infatuation, by bringing the country to the end of its resources. He believed the period must soon arrive when this would be the case. He should be sorry if any thing had fallen from him that might bear an interpretation foreign to his intentions, but he had deemed it an imperative duty to enter into this avowal of his sentiments.

Mr. PERCEVAL declared, that every offensive impression which the Hon. Gentleman had made, more on the feelings of Hon. Friends than his own, was completely removed. He had certainly not attributed to the Hon. Gentleman that which he imagined him to have done. As to the question immediately before the House, he held it to be desirable that in populous towns the soldiery ought rather to be kept apart, than to be quartered on the People. The Hon. Gentleman had again alluded to the Orders in Council; but could they be said to prevent the importation of Corn, when it was generally known that, notwithstanding their operation, eight millions had been paid last year for foreign corn imported? The fact was, that the scarcity was felt as severely in France at present as in England.

Mr. STEPHEN read a Hand-bill, signed a Staffordshire Potter, attributing all the sufferings of the People to the Orders in Council. This he considered to be most inflammatory, as it was proved by undeniable evidence, that these Orders had greatly augmented the export trade, which, before their promulgation, had been entirely suspended. But French means and French artifice were now resorted to to deceive and embitter the calamities that were at present felt.

Mr. PONSONBY had no hesitation in saying, that, in the pre-

sent state of the country, not a farthing ought to be voted which was not indispensibly necessary; and he asked, could it be seriously contended that it could be necessary for this country to vote the sum of 133,000*l.* for stables for 358 horses? We could expect to bring the war in which we were engaged to an honourable conclusion only by husbanding, not by wasting our resources. This year our excess of expenditure would not be less than 30 millions. In these circumstances, was his Hon. Friend (Mr. Whitbread) to blame in desiring the House not to run into this expence? Would the expence of stables in this country contribute to the success of the war?—Would Bonaparte be terrified when informed that such stables were contracted for? Or would our troopers be rendered more fit for their duty, when called into the field, in consequence of having been lodged in such expensive stables? The Hon. and Learned Gentleman talked as if there was a degree of wickedness in any man standing up and expressing a wish to have a Peace, without being satisfied that Peace could be obtained. If so, there was only one class of men, namely, those Members of the House who had seats in his Majesty's Cabinet, who could be permitted to express an opinion on this head, as they alone could be supposed to know whether peace might be obtained or not.

Mr. ROSE contended, that as the Orders in Council did not apply to the Baltic, they could not have the smallest effect on the article of grain.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, the Petitioners who had come to Government, and also to Parliament, complained that they were in a state of starvation arising from the want of employment, in consequence of which they were without money to buy food—a situation to which they were reduced in consequence of the Orders in Council. He had observed it stated, that the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Rose) had to some of those Petitioners, who waited upon him from Birmingham, compared France and England to two men up to their necks in water, who must try which of them could stand the longest without being drowned. He (Mr. W.) could not suppose that the Right Hon. Gentleman had so expressed himself.

Mr. ROSE said, he had been very hardly dealt with in the business alluded to. He confessed that some such comparison had fallen from him—[*laughter*]—but denied that he had treated the distresses of the Birmingham Petitioners with any thing like levity.

Mr HUSKISSON said he should move that instead of 534,000*l.* the grant be reduced to 400,000*l.*

Mr. C. W. WYNNE objected to a grant which amounted to no less a sum than 380*l.* per man and horse. In other barracks the estimate was 82*l.* per man. Was it to be understood that 300*l.* was for each horse's stall?

Mr. WHARTON said, the estimate only corresponded with other estimates.

Mr. CALCRAFT observed, that barracks had been built in his neighbourhood for 100 cavalry, at an expence of about 6000*l.*

Mr. PERCEVAL said the sum proposed was not for procuring accommodation for the horses and men alone, but for the Staff also, for an inclosed exercising ground, and for temporary accommodation within the walls for a larger body of horse, when occasion should require.

Mr. WHITBREAD appealed to the Committee if there was a single man in the House who had had the smallest idea of the nature of this grant till now. Either the Right Hon. Gentleman who spoke last knew more on this subject than the Secretary of the Treasury did, or the latter had not done his duty. He asked, would the Hon. Secretary not now agree to postpone this grant? Or would not the Committee feel a jealousy how they acceded to the granting of money on such an estimate?

Mr. PONSONBY said the question was not whether this sum should be voted at all or not; but whether or not time should be given to the Committee to understand what they were doing. All he should say, if it was true that France and England were now to be compared to two men up to the neck in water, and if in such circumstances, barracks for 350 soldiers were to cost England 133,000*l.* it was not difficult to see which of the two must be thanked first.

Lord FOLKSTONE strongly objected to a larger grant than was proved to be necessary, particularly for the erection of barracks, which that House and the country had been accustomed to regard with a jealous eye. The speech of the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Perceval) too, furnished additional ground for postponing the grant till the House was better informed.

After a few words from Mr. CREEVEY, the House divided, when the numbers were,—Against the Amendment 88—For it 40—Majority 48.

The few remaining clauses were put and carried, without a division. Report was brought up, and it was ordered that it be received to-morrow.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, April 14.

APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL M'MAHON.

Mr. W. WYNNE rose to move, that the copy of the appointment of Colonel M'Mahon to the office of Private Secretary to the Prince Regent, be laid before the House. How, as the case now stood, was the Country to know what was meant by the words Private Secretary? Was the person who filled that station to be deemed a Cabinet Minister, or only merely an *amanuensis*, whose duty was little more than mechanical? At present Government kept the secret to themselves, unwilling to afford any intelligence upon the subject. He had always understood that the Secretary of State for the Home Department was Private Secretary to the Sovereign.—(*Hear, hear!*)—In the reigns of William, and Geo. the First and Second it was so, and it was the duty of that officer to attend the King daily and hourly, if necessary, to receive the royal pleasure, and render his assistance. What one reason was there for the creation of this new place with a salary of 2000*l.* a year? He should be answered that the multiplication of public business rendered it requisite. He doubted the fact. If the sign manual to mere public documents were required, the Private Secretary could be of no use, since he could not affix them, and, as in former instances, the Sovereign might delegate to the Commander in Chief the signature of Commissions. Was it intended that all the communications of the Cabinet Ministers should pass through the hands of Col. M'Mahon?—(*Hear, hear!*)—If so, it was the duty of the House instantly to interpose its authority, to put an end to a practice so unconstitutional. Colonel M'Mahon, in the first instance, was named to an office, the abolition of which a Committee of the House had strongly recommended, and when Parliament decided that he should not retain it, the ingenuity of Government had been directed to discover a new office, at least objectionable in the next degree.—(*Hear, hear!*)

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, the arduous duties of the Sovereign had of late greatly augmented, and it now became necessary that assistance should be afforded. The manual aid of some officer was required for his Royal Highness, who would otherwise be almost overwhelmed with the public documents that would be heaped upon him, and scarcely able to disengage his person from the accumulating pile by which he was encompassed.—(*A laugh.*)—It came then to the mere question of expediency, and putting it upon that, his Lordship would boldly maintain that it was impossible for any Sovereign, however great his ability and exertions, to perform his public duties, as they were now augmented, without the assistance of a Private Secretary, unless the occupant of the throne were to degrade himself into a mere mechanical agent, an arranger of papers.

Mr. ELLIOTT was of opinion that the appointment was unconstitutional, unnecessary, and therefore inexpedient.

Mr. PERCEVAL was at a loss to conceive how any person could regard the act as an unlawful one. Was it contended that the Crown had no power to create a new office? If it was, he would refer those Gentlemen who entertained such an opinion to the statute books for proofs that such a power was constitutionally vested in the Chief Magistrate. But he denied that it was a new office. The situation which Colonel Taylor held about his Majesty was one exactly similar to that held by Colonel M'Mahon; it was just as new to the Constitution, and if the one was illegal they both were. The mere arrangement and detail of the innumerable papers from various offices—the

numberless acts which it was necessary to submit to the Prince Regent for his approbation or for his signature, some of them very urgent, and consequently to be presented as such, some less so, and hence to be disposed of in another manner—together with the manual labour attendant upon all those duties—formed a continuance of exertion which certainly required to be relieved in some way or other. It had been said that his Majesty discharged all that labour for five and forty years without any such relief, and that when he did have it, it was from a calamitous necessity which did not exist with regard to the Prince Regent. His Majesty certainly did transact business without the assistance of a Private Secretary, and he did it to the astonishment of every one who was able to witness it; but while we did honour to the laborious activity and sedulous diligence of George III. we should remember *some discriminating circumstances between him and the exalted Personage who now reigned.* The King came to the Throne at a very youthful period of his life, and was early trained to those *habits of business* which accomodated themselves gradually to the gradual increase of labour which every year of his reign produced. In him it progressively became a task of comparative ease; but the Prince Regent entering upon the laborious details of Government at a much more advanced stage of life, *it could not be expected*, however, that he should possess *those facilities* in transacting public business, or that *severe application to them*, which was the result of early habit in his Royal Father:—looking, therefore, at that part of the question alone, without adverting to the enormous increase of duties annexed to the functions of the Sovereign, he could not but consider the present motion as the most extraordinary one that was ever brought before that House.—(*Hear, hear, hear!*)—It seemed to him to betray deep marks of a disposition to complain in the absence of all grounds of complaint—(*Hear, hear, hear!*)—a determination to find grievances where none existed—(*Hear, hear!*)—but, he thought, at the same time, that it displayed a miserable poverty of invention.—(*Hear, hear!*)—Such common-place declamation might serve very well to turn a paragraph in a newspaper, but was hardly worthy of serious refutation: it was very well, to be sure, that it should be used by those who thought the Prince Regent's pleasure could not be properly communicated, because *they* were not the objects of it.—(*Hear, hear!*)—He should conclude by observing, that as it was his decided conviction, that the appointment was neither illegal nor unconstitutional, and as he believed he had shewn that it was abundantly expedient, he should oppose the production of the papers.

Mr. PONSONBY condemned the appointment *prima facie*: but before he condemned it by his vote, he should like to have some better evidence before him. He should like to know precisely for what purpose Colonel M'Mahon was appointed.—Not, surely, as the Noble Lord had stated (Castlereagh), that his Royal Highness might not be suffocated beneath piles of papers, unable to move from under them. He should, indeed, be *sorry* at such an event; but if that were the danger that was to be avoided, he feared the appointment would not answer all its purposes—for if his Royal Highness was not an Atlas, his Private Secretary was certainly not an Hercules; and, like a favourite cat drowned in a bowl of milk, we should, perhaps, see Colonel M'Mahon's death announced, suffocated under reams of official paper (*a laugh*). He begged pardon of the House for imitating the levity of the Right Hon. Gentleman, and concluded by declaring that his vote should be given for the production of the document moved for.

Mr. Secretary RYDER observed, that much had been said about his Majesty not employing any Private Secretary till his infirmities rendered it necessary; but he firmly believed that had no such calamity taken place, the enormous increase of public business which the Sovereign had to transact, would have compelled his Majesty to seek such assistance as was now enjoyed by the Prince Regent.

Mr. LAMBE thought that the House must agree to the motion, for the purpose of passing a censure upon the appointment, and of reversing it, unless every thing that was constitutional was to be given up to the mere purposes of convenience.

Mr. CALCRAFT declared his readiness to look at this question in every point of view, but that he was utterly unable to see any thing of that alarming nature or of those dangerous consequences apprehended by his Honourable Friends—(*hear, hear, from Ministerial benches!*)—He had often heard that to be placed at the head of the Government was a situation of great labour and hardship; but it would indeed be a situation of hardship if the Sovereign was to be denied that assistance which was possessed by every one of his ministers.

Mr. WHITBREAD.—"Sir, This is a new æra indeed.—(*A laugh, and hear, hear!*)—This it seems is a period when early friendships come to be naturally sacrificed. If on entering this House I had happened to hear the voice of my Hon. Friend who had just sat down, I would have hazarded a wager that he was raising it in support of the motion.—(*A laugh.*)—The time has, however, arrived, when all former predilections are to cease, though I am yet glad to find that he who was a strong friend, is not likely to prove a formidable enemy.—(*Hear! and a laugh.*)—Like the Noble Lord who appeared to me always to speak best when most removed from the Treasury Bench, I think I never heard my Hon. Friend reason so weakly as on the present occasion. Does he forget that Colonel Taylor was not a Member of the Privy Council? That he was not a Member of Parliament? Col. Taylor was likewise, if I mistake not, paid out of the King's privy purse, but certainly was introduced to this situation solely on account of his Majesty's bodily infirmities. We have been told of the necessity of furnishing the Crown with requisite assistance: is it meant by this, I ask, to insinuate that Col. M'Mahon is necessary to enable the reigning Prince to discharge the functions of the Monarchy? That he must read to his Royal Highness all the papers that are submitted to his perusal? Other duties, however, have been named by a Right Hon. Gentleman, the Secretary for the Home Department, who in coming to the rescue of his Right Hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reminded me of the Noble Lord's image of Col. M'Mahon rescuing the Prince from a file of papers.—(*A laugh.*)—But we are told that Colonel M'Mahon may have other avocations; that it may be his duty to select and put forth such papers as ought to be laid before his Royal Highness, for the purpose of being taken into his early consideration.—(*Hear, hear!*)—What was this but giving Col. M'Mahon a controul over the interests and fortunes of men? If it be said, that the duties are to be confined to the arrangement of bundles of papers, of tying them up in tape, and disposing them in due order, is this a service that deserves the remuneration of 2000l. per annum? The whole affair wears the aspect of a place made for Colonel M'Mahon; it has nothing constitutional belonging to it; no definition of duties, no copy of appointment. To be sure, it is said that the Prince Regent cannot listen to bad advice, and that Colonel M'Mahon is incompetent to give it. But we are to consider Regents and Secretaries in general, and in so doing are justified in assuming the possibility of *weak Princes and dangerous Secretaries.*—What! deprive the Prince of a Secretary! exclaims an Hon. Gentleman; will you give him no help, will you afford him no time to deliberate on the vast projects of those illustrious Ministers by whom he is surrounded? His Majesty had managed to do all this. Oh, but then you do not consider the prodigious increase of public business since 1804, and indeed there may be some reasonable wonder how the business of that year was got through.—(*Hear, hear!*)—What so moderate too, it is asked, as the sum of 2000l.—and if it be so moderate, what objection can there be to the Prince paying it out of his own private purse?—(*Hear, hear!*)—From the cheer of the Right Hon. Gentleman, when the phrase of *early predilections* was used, he may have supposed that I included myself in the number of those to whom it might generally be applied. But I beg leave to disclaim the honour; the shot is fired over my head. Doubtless we now know nothing of private attachments or private actions; though a pretty general belief once prevailed that there once were such things as political preferences and regards. But this is at an end, the scene is closed, and we are bound to forget all that has passed. We are bence-

forward to look only to the appointed and responsible servants of the crown; and I trust that after all we have heard, and all we have experienced from the evils of a secret influence, we shall not permit this new æra to be signalized by the formal appointment of an intermediate officer between the Crown and its Ministers.

Mr. WILBERFORCE professed that he could imagine nothing more unimportant or inoffensive than the appointment in question, considered merely by itself. In the extended scale of the business and operations of Government, and at the Prince's *time of life*, such an appointment might be absolutely necessary. At the same time, he must frankly declare his wish, that Col. M'Mahon had been paid out of the Prince's privy purse, as a more seemly and decorous proceeding.—(*Hear, hear!*)—It was his intention, however, to vote against the motion; and as to secret influence, he recollected that Lord North had told him at the close of his life, that he did not believe in the existence of any.—(*a laugh.*)

Lord FOLKESTONE supported the motion, and mentioned an instance which had come within his own knowledge when abroad, that seemed to him to illustrate the impropriety of the appointment in question. When he happened to be in Russia, there was a man of prodigious activity, who was a great favorite with the Heir Apparent. Such was the comprehensiveness of his talents, that he was not less assiduous in superintending alterations in the *dress and appearance* of the soldiers, than in counselling his Royal Master on more important occasions.—(*A laugh.*)—When the Prince ascended the throne this person was made his Private Secretary, and all the parasites of the Court soon found that their attentions must be paid to the new Secretary, who soon began so effectually to exercise his influence that he procured the dismissal of all the former Ministers, and by his activity in altering the old maxims of policy, in a very short time converted his Monarch into the creature of France.—(*Hear, hear!*)

Mr. TIERNEY regarded the present as a most important question. The Hon. Member for Yorkshire had approved of the appointment on the ground that the Prince Regent was too weak and infirm to act without it, and thus, for once in his life, had made up his mind to a decided vote.—(*Hear, hear!*)—By the dexterity of their former patriotism, the House had brought an additional burden on the country of 3*ool.* a-year. It was to be considered too, that the salary of this appointment was not the only one enjoyed by Col. M'Mahon. At that moment, as Privy Purse, he received 1*oool.* a-year. As Auditor of the Duchy of Cornwall, he received a sum, which, with the others already mentioned, made the whole amount to not less than 45*ool.* a-year. He denied that there could be any thing private in such a situation. Col. M'Mahon must either be Secretary of State, or he can be nothing. Another thing he wished to know was, whether this was to be a place for life or not? What did he know but that immediately after this appointment other persons might not be called in to discharge the pretended duties of it, and that this might not turn out a direct sinecure for Col. M'Mahon?—He would own, for his own part, if he were to have any transactions with his Royal Highness, he would not apply to him through the medium of the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite,—He would prefer the intervention of Col. M'Mahon, to the going through all the tedious frivolities of Downing-street.

Mr. FULLER should vote with all his heart and soul against the motion. Did not they allow on the other side that his Royal Highness had an immense number of private letters to write? and was that no ground for the appointment? Gentlemen should recollect, that when his Majesty ascended the Throne, he was young and hearty,—(*A laugh*)—that he used to get up and go to bed early,—(*a laugh*)—and that he was quite able to go through all his papers without any help whatever. Now did not they know that the Prince Regent was not so young and that he would therefore want a Secretary?—The question was a Grenville question. If the Grenvilles wanted to be so very patriotic, why did not some of the family throw up their sinecures? Sinecures, that, when they were conferred on that family, were worth but about 5 or 6000*l.* a year, now had increased to 30,000*l.*; yet it was this bloated family that complained of Col. M'Mahon's appointment. He did not mean any disparagement to Lord Grey and the Duke of Bedford; but they chose to load themselves with the Grenvilles. They tied a mill-stone about their neck; and if they sunk, it was not the fault of the Prince, nor of the Country, but their own.

The House divided,—For the Motion, 100—Against it, 176—Majority, 76.

BARRACK ESTIMATES.

The Report of the Committee of Supply, of the preceding evening, being brought up and read,

Mr. FREEMANTLE objected to the Barrack Estimates. The House were not aware, perhaps, that up to 1809, upwards of 18,800,000*l.* had been expended in barracks since the commencement of the war; since 1809, more than a million had been added, besides upwards of 700,000*l.* in Ireland, making a total in England and Ireland of upwards of 15 millions of money.

After some discussion, the consideration of the Report so far as regarded the Barrack Estimates, was postponed.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, April 15.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN THE ARMY.

Capt. BENNET observed, that the mode of punishment in the army by what was called Flogging, was most debasing and degrading to the soldiers on whom it was inflicted—was highly impolitic as such,—and was attended with such cruelty and inhumanity, that it was obliged to be inflicted in holes and corners.—(*A cry of hear, hear!*)—He repeated, that those who inflicted it were compelled to do it in holes and corners—by which he meant, that they could not attempt it in open day, for if they did, they must have an army to protect their executioners from the enraged feelings of an indignant public. It was, therefore, highly deserving the notice of the House, that it should be attended to, as there could be no doubt but its being abolished would greatly conduce to the good of the service, by rendering recruiting more easy, and would be of advantage to discipline, by freeing soldiers from that disgrace and debasement they were now obliged to submit to. He should therefore move,—"For a return of the number of Corporal Punishments inflicted in the Regular Army, Militia, and Local Militia, for the last seven years, distinguishing each year, the number of lashes in each case, and the crimes for which they were inflicted."

Mr. MANNERS SUTTON objected to the motion. Without a case stated of some considerable abuse in military punishment, he thought the House would not be inclined to entertain this question, unless they were determined to cast a censure on the Military Administration of the Country. No slur ought to be thrown on it without a just cause. The present illustrious Commander in Chief had laboured incessantly to bring the discipline of the army to the highest possible state of perfection, and as speedily and generally as possible to do away corporal punishment: but such an alteration could only be effected by degrees. There was much difference of opinion on the subject, even in the army; and he believed that if that whole body was consulted, whether corporal punishment should be altogether abolished, there would be as much difference on the subject among the men in the ranks, as among the officers who commanded them.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT expected to have heard more cogent reasons for rejecting a motion of this kind, than any he had yet heard. As to making out a case—many had already been made out; he had himself stated no less than eight cases in Gibraltar, where the Surgeons had given their opinions that the men died in consequence of the floggings they received, but were afterwards compelled to say they died by fever. He had heretofore mentioned several cases of suicide, and attempts at suicide, in order to avoid corporal punishment; and those men who had attempted suicide, and were recovered, actually suffered additional punishment for the attempt. Old men, at 70 years of age, who had been 50 years in the army, and who were more shocked at the idea of shame than the dread of pain, had, in spite of every remonstrance, and in defiance of long and meritorious service, been doomed to be flogged. Youths who scarcely knew what they did, found no diminution of punish-

men by pleading their youth—neither the infirmities of old age, nor the inexperience of youth, were allowed to entitle them to exemption from the application of the disgraceful lash. Would, then, the House be satisfied with the Hon. and Learned Gentleman's compliments on the Commander in Chief?—A Noble Lord had said upon a former debate, that he thought it almost impossible that a man could die of receiving 340 lashes. He should, however, cite a case where a man had died in the utmost tortures from the infliction of 170 lashes. It was a man of the name of M'Donald, of the third regiment, who, in the year 1775, received the punishment at Quebec. The man was a married man, and his wife had run away from him, and lived with a serjeant. He, at different times, demanded his wife, which demand might have given some disturbance. The officers did not punish him in the first instance for demanding his wife, but they issued an order that he should not demand her any more, and the first time he violated this order he was tried by a court-martial for disobedience of orders, and sentenced to receive 200 lashes. The punishment was inflicted on a Friday with such extraordinary severity, that on receiving 170 lashes the man fainted and fell down, and he died in the Hospital on the Tuesday following. A bill of indictment was preferred against all the officers of the court-martial for the murder of this man, but they were acquitted from its being proved that a Surgeon was present, whose duty it was to interfere if the life of the man was in danger. Baron Massiers, who was the Attorney-General of the Colony at the time of the prosecution, stated in his speech, "that when a man had been guilty in France of the murder of one of its Sovereigns, the Council deliberated on a punishment adequate to the enormity of the crime. They even encouraged propositions to be made to them for that purpose; and among others, a butcher proposed to flay the man alive, and keep him in that state three days before he should die. This proposal appeared to the Council too barbarous for so heinous a crime, and they contented themselves with breaking him on the wheel, and keeping him two days on the rack! Now the officers of this regiment had, for an offence comparatively trivial, inflicted a more cruel death than the Council of France could bear to hear of, even for the murder of a Sovereign, and more barbarous than even the butcher could propose; for he had only thought of keeping the man three days in torture, while those officers had flayed the man, and kept him four days in agony before he died! Such had been the feelings of a Crown Lawyer formerly, on such a punishment; but now Crown Lawyers could speak of them with tenderness; and 200 lashes, as it seems, were thought nothing at all of in the present state of our army. It was known, however, that death had since taken place in consequence of punishment, and that many suicides had taken place from the apprehension of them. There was also an instance of a serjeant of a veteran battalion, of the name of Gill, who cut his own throat merely to avoid the pain of being obliged to witness a number of those punishments. He then dwelt at some length on the account of *resolute insensibility*, which appeared last year in all the papers. It appeared by this statement, that a private, in order to obtain his discharge, had counterfeited insensibility; and so obstinately persisted, that although they ran pins under his nails, and studied horrid pains to rouse him, he discovered no life. A Surgeon then thinking the insensibility arose from a wound in the head, actually trepanned him; and it was only on scraping the brain that the man uttered one single groan. He was afterwards discharged, and then recovered with astonishing rapidity; but upon hearing that a press-gang was in the neighbourhood, he ran away, and had not since been heard of. The name of the regiment, and of the Surgeon, had been stated, and the officers of that regiment, or the surgeon, would have undoubtedly contradicted this statement if it could be contradicted. In the year 1808 there were found to be nearly 8000 blind men in the army applying for their discharge on that account, but as it was suspected that the greater part of those men had caused their own blindness to procure their discharge, there was an order issued to deprive those discharged for this cause of the benefits of the pensions they would otherwise had. When it was considered what dreadful suffering men had thus borne or inflicted upon themselves to get their discharge, it was hard to believe that the situation of a soldier was quite so comfortable as had been represented. Young officers were obliged to attend these dreadful punishments in order to inure them to it; and private soldiers, who, perhaps, would have fortitude enough to have undergone them, have often fainted in the ranks at being obliged to witness them. He was convinced that if such a practice took place in the face of day, and in public, it must be soon laid aside, and that it could only be continued in holes and corners. He would not disguise his feelings respecting this barbarous and ignominious punishment which hung over the backs of the army, and now, indeed, of the nation also. He would not join in covering the foulness of the cat-o'nine-tails. He would say that it must be laid aside, and it would be laid aside. What was the reform of petty abuses compared to the freeing the nation from this barbarity and infamy? This was a subject on which all honest men, from one corner of the empire to the other, ought to unite and petition the House. If the Gentlemen who supported it believed the Bible, they would find in it, that forty stripes, lacking one, were as many as were allowed by that which they themselves called the law of God.

Mr. LOCKHART observed, that this punishment was not peculiar to this country, as the Hon. Baronet appeared to imagine; but that among the Romans,—the greatest of military nations,—corporal punishments were allowed. The Dictators and Consuls were attended by lictors, and the order was often given. In the French army, formerly, there was the punishment of running the gauntlet, and there still was imprisonment in a dungeon, working at fortifications in irons, serving on board the gallies in irons, and, above all, death was inflicted at least 100 times for once that it was in the English army. He had conversed with many French Officers, prisoners in this country, who had assured him, that nothing could be more precarious than the condition of the French soldier, or more dependant upon the particular character or caprice of the officers. As to the number of stripes given, he certainly agreed with the Hon. Baronet, that such a number should never be given as would endanger life; and, indeed, he believed that our code was too loose upon this subject.

Mr. WYNNE would vote for this motion, although he was not prepared to vote for the total abolition of corporal punishment.

Mr. WILBERFORCE said, that he felt it impossible to avoid being carried away, in some measure, by the powerful effect of the statement of the Hon. Baronet, and by the warm feelings which he had displayed so honourably, so forcibly. At the same time, when he considered what an army is, and how sharp and powerful an instrument an army now is against the enemies of the country,—(*hear, hear,*)—he thought there should be very great caution used before any very great alteration was made in our military system. He should be glad to get the information required, but not in the way proposed. If the Government had such accounts regularly at some public office, he believed the effect would be produced of diminishing those punishments.

Sir S. ROMILLY said, that the question was not now whether corporal punishments should be abolished or not, but whether the information which was demanded should be granted or not. It appeared to him that no danger could arise from agreeing to the motion equal to the danger that there was in resisting it. Would it not be said, that those who refused this account were afraid of producing it, well knowing that if it were laid before the public, it would fill them with astonishment and horror? As the law stood at present, there was no limit to the number of lashes that might be ordered; nature had not given the capacity of enduring such sentences as might be pronounced; and was it not proper, therefore, that they should be brought under the attention of Parliament?—What was the mischief feared from granting the returns? The very refusal of them produced all that discussion which Gentlemen so much deprecated; but it was that discussion, let it be recollected, which even, according to their own confession, had produced the best effects, by diminishing of late both the number and severity of corporal punishments. It was a consideration of much importance, and he gave the statement on the au-

thority of a writer on military subjects, that it was in Militia regiments that the greatest severity was exercised. This author had asserted, that if they were to proceed in all the regiments of Militia as they did in some of them, the wole 70,000 men would be flogged in the course of six years. (*Hear, hear.*) It was the boast of English law, that cruel punishments were unknown to its code. It knew nothing of the rack, the wheel, the knout, and other modes of torturing civil offenders. But what punishment exceeded the horror of flogging a man to death? The most cruel murderer could not suffer such a punishment by the law of England. In military punishments, however, it sometimes happened that a man was flogged to the very verge of life, with a surgeon standing by to feel the pulse of the sufferer, and to pronounce when nature could no longer bear any additional infliction. This was not all,—the offender might be sent to an hospital, there to remain under an agony of apprehension till his strength was sufficiently recruited to bear the remainder of the punishment. What was there like this in the civil inflictions of the country?

Mr. PERCEVAL had no intention of imputing any but honourable and humane motives to his Hon. and Learned Friend, and other Gentlemen who had preceded him on the same side of the question; but he could not help thinking, that, however pure their intention, the tendency of their speeches was of a most mischievous nature. With the sentiments which he (Mr. *P.*) entertained, and thinking as he did that corporal punishments in the army, though an evil, were a necessary evil, he should feel that he could hardly do a more criminal act, than by drawing pictures of severity calulated to inflame the minds of soldiers, and disincline them to the service. It appeared to him from the whole of the debate, that most exaggerated statements had been made of the severity of military discipline, and that same extreme cases, which had very rarely happened, had been most unfairly represented as specimens of what was daily practised in the army. No doubt cases of excessive punishment had existed; but if the matter was inquired into, it would be found that no such practices were now tolerated in the army. The Hon. Baronet had mentioned the case of a militiaman who had pins thrust under his nails: but the same newspaper statement which contained this account, added, that it was not by way of punishment, but because he had shammed dead to avoid punishment—that he had lain in this state of insensibility for days together, and had been even scalped to see whether his senses could be restored. The close of all was, that he afterwards got up and ran away, and had never been more heard of since. This story, which was said to have happened at Taunton, had afterwards been inquired into, and was found to have no foundation in fact. Now, it was rather singular that the Hon. Baronet, who was in the habit of professing very little respect for newspaper authority, should have taken it from a newspaper, and gravely brought it forward as a fact, and a proof of the system of torture practised in the army.—(*Hear, hear.*) It would have been easy to obtain information on this point, but this might not have suited the Hon. Baronet's object. The story had falsehood on the very face of it; and those whose business it was to enquire, had found it so. A case of reported suicide from the fear of corporal punishment,—probably that to which the Honourable Baronet alluded,—had also been enquired into, and the newspaper in which it appeared was now the subject of prosecution, because there was no trace of any such thing having happened. But was the House of Commons to sit there, and whenever a newspaper story was brought forward, to be called upon for returns of military punishments, which, it was said, were only refused because they would disclose scenes which could not be witnessed without horror? He should oppose the motion, because it would be productive of the most unfair consequences to the character of the different officers commanding regiments. They would be brought to the bar of this House and of the public, and held up to the most invidious comparisons. The number of corporal punishments in each regiment would appear; but the grounds and merits of each case would remain entirely out of sight. Besides, he did conceive that the introduction of military questions of this sort without a crying necessity, was in itself a great public mischief. This was now the third discussion which had taken place on this very subject in the course of the present Session; and was it for the benefit of the public service that such matters should be so frequently agitated?

Mr. BROUGHAM said, that the very mention of the word flogging was represented to be nothing less than giving the watch-word of discontent; and, in fact the whole of the conduct of his Hon. Friends with regard to this subject, was characterised as an appeal to the bad passions of the mob. He would not insist on the inconsistency betrayed by his Hon. Friend, the Member for Yorkshire, who was, during many years, the firm supporter of the plans of Mr. Windham; all which plans, from the very beginning to the end, were for the amelioration of the army: but was it not right that the soldiers should look to Parliament for the bettering of their condition, or for the relief of any grievance? Was it not Parliament that payed them, and that in a general way superintended the management of their concerns? To be sure, it was not Parliament that regulated, or ought to regulate, the minor details of the service. Parliament had nothing to do with the shape of a cap, or the device of a button; that grave business was left to *wiser heads*, and more serious tribunals; but was it not Parliament that made provisions against mutiny, and offered rewards to valour, and instituted all those regulations which were connected with discharge from the service, with the commissariat, &c.? Besides, had not the House, on various occasions, been engaged in what might be called military enquiries? Could the wit of man fancy any investigation more delicate than the enquiring whether our soldiers perished in Walcheren for want of medical means and assistance, or whether they were starved through culpable neglect in the retreat to Corunna? And yet, when these subjects were agitated in the House, the Right Hon. Gentleman and the Member for Yorkshire never hinted at any indelicacy or danger from alarm. Neither the Noble planner of that disastrous expedition, nor his notable coadjutor, the Right Hon. Gentleman who shut the doors during that enquiry, ever adopted any mode of argument like that which he now combated.—The Hon. Member then went into a general view of what he considered the monstrous system of corporal punishment in the army, and which he contended must, sooner or later, be abolished. Flogging debased as well the person who inflicted as the person who felt it. It produced a callousness of feeling in both; the ordinary feelings of human nature died within them; and of this he need not go far for illustration: for he contended, that if this system had not a tendency to harden and brutalize the inflictor as well as it wounded the body and *cauterized* the soul of the sufferer, there would not have been found at a certain melancholy period in the sister country, men who could have submitted to be the agents of the horrible tortures that took place there! (*Hear, hear.*) On this subject he wished to touch lightly and delicately, although he must for once say, from all his soul, that he wished to see a day of examination into those atrocities, a day of justice and of retribution. Such a day he wished to see, if it were for nothing else than to prevent their future possible occurrence. Mr. Brougham then gave an account of some instances of severe punishment in the army and navy. In Canada, a Major-General, who, by the bye, was a German, was in the habit of inflicting no less than 700 lashes, and that too at intervals, for the slightest ordinary offences. In the navy he had seen documents which proved that the sailors often leaped into the sea from terror of this punishment; and in one ship, in six months of the year 1809, there were inflicted no less than fifteen thousand lashes.

Mr. ROBINSON defended the Admiralty from the charge of countenancing wanton or severe punishments in the navy; and he would with confidence take upon himself to deny the accuracy of the facts stated by the Hon. Gentleman. Why did not the Hon. Gentleman mention names?

Mr. BROUGHAM said, that he would send the documents he alluded to into the Admiralty.

Mr. LONG, Sir F. BURDETT, Mr. BROUGHAM, Mr. ROBINSON, Mr. LAMBE, Mr. MANNERS SUTTON, and Mr. BENNET, made each a few further observations, and the

House divided—For the Motion, 17—Against it, 49—Majority, 32.—Adjourned.

Thursday, April 16.

CLERKS IN THE NAVY OFFICE.

Sir F. BURDETT moved that there be laid before the House an Account of the number of Clerks in the Navy Office, specifying their salaries, periods of service, &c. and also Copies of the Memorials presented by them to the Navy Board.—Sir Francis prefaced his motion by stating the hard case of these Gentlemen, many of whom had been 20, 25, and 30 years in the Office, without any increase of emolument. Their advantages had even been diminished, which was peculiarly hard on some, who had *purchased their situations of Lord Barham*, when he was Comptroller of the Navy, and had thus been actually swindled out of their money!

Mr. YORKE said, whatever might have been the practice in Lord Barham's time, at the present moment any person who took upon himself to sell a Clerkship, either in the Admiralty or Navy Offices, would be called to a very severe account.—As to the Clerks in the Navy Office, he could see nothing peculiar in their situation to call for the interference of the House. In 1807 the whole Establishment had been very properly put on a new footing; the fees had been abolished, but the salaries had been raised.

Sir F. BURDETT was determined to press the question. If the selling of Clerkships was so improper, then ought Lord Barham's conduct to be investigated.

Mr. YORKE had not admitted that Lord Barham had actually sold the Clerkships. But the Clerks had no ground for complaint.

Sir F. BURDETT said, that there was no doubt whatever of the fact.

On a division, the motion was negatived by a majority of 41;—15 voting for it, and 56 against it.

FRAUDS IN THE LICENCE TRADE.

A motion made by Mr. HERBERT, respecting the frauds and perjuries *allowed* by the High Court of Admiralty, as necessary to support British Commerce, was negatived without a division—Adjourned.

Friday, April 17.

Mr. WHITBREAD presented a number of Petitions, praying that the most perfect liberty of conscience might be granted to the Catholics, and all other classes of his Majesty's subjects.—Laid on the table.

Several Petitions were also received against the Orders in Council.

THE PRINCESSES.

On the motion for the third reading of the Bills for granting an Annuity to the Princesses,

Mr. TIERNEY objected to the grant:—the sum of 184,000*l.* already voted for the Queen and Princesses, he thought quite sufficient in the present distressed state of the country, without this additional call for 30,000*l.* a-year.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that it was necessary the Princesses should have it in their power to change the scene of their abode, should they wish to do so.

Mr. SMITH opposed the grant.

Mr. WHITBREAD was confident, that if the Illustrious Personages concerned had been told of the great distresses of the nation, they would not have consented to the proposed measure. He was astonished that the Right Hon. Gentleman had omitted all mention of the Princess of Wales. It had been announced that the Queen was to hold a Drawing-Room; and the public naturally asked, why the Princess of Wales had no appointment, and why she was not to preside on such occasions?

Mr. RYDER was astonished at the opposition to a measure which was so popular. As to her Majesty's holding a Drawing Room, it should be recollected that his Majesty was still King, and that of course the Queen only could preside.

Mr. WHITBREAD said that the Princess of Wales, under the present circumstances, ought to be enabled also to hold a Drawing Room.

Mr. PERCEVAL proposed that the annuity should commence from the 11th of January last.

Mr. WHITBREAD asked, if there had not been a solemn proceeding in the case of the Princess of Wales—if that case had not been referred by his Majesty to his Ministers for advice—if on that advice the Princess had not been received at Court—and if the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Perceval) had not caused to be printed, at a private press in his own house, a large number of copies of a detail of the transaction, for the purpose of general circulation?—He did not know why this work had been suppressed: but this he knew, that some copies had been bought up at a great expense, and that certain advertizements, offering rewards to those who would bring the books to one Linsell, had proceeded from the pen of the Right Hon. Gentleman's agents.—(*Hear, hear, hear!*)

Mr. PERCEVAL was silent; but Mr. RYDER remarked that no part of the conduct of the Gentlemen opposite had created more general disgust, than the manner in which they had introduced this subject to the attention of the House—(*Loud cries of hear hear!*)

On a division, the Bill was passed, there being 101 for it, and 35 against it.

After the Gold Coin Bill had been brought up, the House adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE,

Admiralty-Office, April 14th.

Admiral Lord Keith, has transmitted a letter from Captain Sir John Gore, of the Tonnant, giving an account of his having captured the Emelie French privateer, carrying 12 ten-pounder carronades, and 84 men; she sailed from St. Maloes on the 15th, and had taken a Spanish merchant ship, which was retaken on the 24th by one of his Majesty's brigs.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

W. Dean, Kenton-street, Russell-square, shopkeeper.
E. S. and T. Neale, Cheapside, shawl-manufacturers.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Mathew, Wigton, Cumberland, tanner.
A. and J. Davidson, jun. South Blyth, Northumberland, ship builders.
J. Freeman, Birmingham, victualler.
J. Maskell, Greenwich, sail-maker.
W. Preston, Manchester, butcher.
J. Hill, Stone Stanton, Leicestershire, wool-comber.
R. Blanchard, Hosier-lane, West Smithfield, glover.
D. and D. Terney, Commercial-road, rope-makers.
W. J. Beechey, Newgate-market, salesman.
J. W. Lesingham, Gray's-inn-lane, grocer.
R. Norms, Manchester, haberdasher.
J. Ellis, Corn-dean, Gloucestershire, butcher.
R. Adams, Stockwell-street, Greenwich, haberdasher.
J. Hilton, James-street, Covent-garden, oilman.
B. Fowkes, Sherbourne lane, merchant.

SUPPLEMENT.

Downing-street, April 14.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, has been this day received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General the Earl of Wellington, dated Camp before Badajoz, March 27, 1812.

The operations of the siege of Badajoz have continued since I addressed you on the 20th, notwithstanding the badness of the weather, till the 25th inst. On that day we opened our fire from 28 pieces of ordnance in six batteries, in the first parallel, two of which were intended to fire upon the outwork called La Picurina, and the other four to enfilade or destroy the defences of the fort on the side attacked. I directed Major-General Kempt, who commanded in the trenches on that afternoon, to attack La Picurina by storm after it was dark that night, which service he effected in the most judicious and gallant manner.

The attack was made by 500 men of the 3d division, formed into three detachments: the right under the command of Major

Shaw, of the 74th; the centre under the Hon. Capt Powys, of the 83d; and the left under Major Rudd, of the 77th regiment. The communication between the outwork and the body of the place, was entered on its right and left by the right and left detachments, each consisting of 200 men; half of each of which detachments protected the attack from sallies from the fort, while the others attacked the work in its gorge.

It was first entered however by the centre detachment of 100 men, under the command of the Hon. Capt. Powys, of the 83d regiment, who escaladed the work at the salient angle, at a point at which the pallisades had been injured by our fire. The detachments which attacked the work by the gorge had the most serious difficulties to contend with, as it was closed by not less than three rows of strong pallisades, defended by musketry, and a place of arms for the garrison, musket proof, and loop-holed throughout. When the attack upon the salient angle, however, succeeded, the whole got into the work.

The enemy's garrison in the outwork consisted of 250 men, with seven pieces of artillery, under the command of Col. Gaspard Thiery, of the Etat Major of the Army of the South: but very few, if any, escaped. The Colonel, three other Officers, and 86 men, have been taken prisoners, and the remainder were either killed by the fire of our troops, or drowned in the inundation of the river Rivellas. The enemy made a sortie from the ravelin, called St. Roque, either with a view to recover La Picurina, or to protect the retreat of the garrison, but they were immediately driven in by the detachments stationed in the communication to protect the attack.

Major-General Kempt mentions in high terms in his report, the cool and persevering gallantry of the officers and troops; of which, indeed, the strength of the work which they carried, affords the best proof. He particularly mentions Lieut.-Col. Hardinge, of the Staff of the Portuguese army, who attended him on this occasion. Capt. Bennett, his Aid-de-Camp, and Brigade-Major Wilde, who was unfortunately killed by a cannon shot after the work was in our possession; likewise Capt. Holloway, Lieuts. Gipps and Stanway, of the Royal Engineers, who conducted the several detachments to the different points of attack; and Majors Shaw and Rudd, and the Hon. Capt. Powys who commanded the several detachments. These three officers were wounded, the latter on the parapet of the work, which he had been the first to mount by ladders.

I have to add to this account, the high sense I entertain of the judicious manner and gallantry with which Major-Gen. Kempt carried into execution the service with which I had entrusted him.

We thus established ourselves in La Picurina, on the night of the 25th, and opened the second parallel within 300 yards of the body of the place, in which two batteries were commenced last night.

It is impossible that I can do justice to the zeal, activity, and indefatigable labour of the officers and soldiers with which these operations have been carried on in the most unfavourable weather. The Guadiana swelled so considerably, that, notwithstanding all the precautions, our bridge of pontoons was carried away on the 22d inst. and the flying bridges were so much injured as almost to become useless; but still the operations have been carried on without interruption.

Since I addressed your Lordship on the 20th, Gen. Drouet has had troops on the line between Medellin on the Guadiana, and Zalamea de la Serena and Llerena, apparently with the view of keeping the communication open between the Army of the South and the division of the Army of Portugal stationed on the Tagus.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir T. Graham made a movement to Llerena on the 25th, at night; but the enemy, consisting of three battalions of infantry, and two regiments of cavalry, having heard of this march, retired into the mountains in the course of the night.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir R. Hill has likewise sent a detachment to La Guarena, and proposed to march himself this morning upon Medellin, in order to co-operate with Lieut.-Gen. Sir Thomas Graham.

I inclose a return of killed, wounded, and missing, from the 18th instant.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing.

British loss from the 18th to 22d March, 1812.—3 Serjeants, 39 rank and file, killed; 10 Officers, 6 Serjeants, 1 drummer, 222 rank and file, wounded; 4 rank and file missing.

Ditto from the 23d to the 26th.—7 Officers, 2 Serjeants, 56 rank and file killed; 18 Officers, 9 Serjeants, 1 drummer, 225 rank and file wounded; 7 rank and file missing.

Total British loss.—7 Officers, 5 Serjeants, 95 rank and file killed; 28 Officers, 15 Serjeants, 2 drummers, 447 rank and file wounded; 11 rank and file missing.

Portuguese loss from the 18th to the 22d March.—1 Officer, 1 drummer, 9 rank and file killed; 4 Officers, 4 Serjeants, 44 rank and file wounded.

Ditto from the 23d to the 26th of March.—1 Officer, 10 rank and file killed; 2 Officers, 1 Serjeant, 39 rank and file wounded.

Total Portuguese loss.—2 Officers, 1 drummer, 19 rank and file killed; 6 Officers, 5 Serjeants, 83 rank and file wounded.

Total loss from the 18th to the 25th of March.—9 Officers, 3 Serjeants, 1 drummer, 114 rank and file killed; 34 Officers, 20 Serjeants, 2 drummers, 530 rank and file wounded; 11 rank and file missing.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

March 18.—*Wounded.*—38th Foot, Lieut. Farris, severely.

March 19.—*Killed.*—23d Portuguese, Ensign Severino Joze Autos.—*Wounded.*—Capt. Robert Cuthbert, Aid-de-Camp to Lieut.-Gen. Picton, severely, since dead. Royal Engineers, Lieut.-Col. Fletcher, slightly.—1st batt. 23d Foot, Brevet Major Potter, severely, since dead.—74th Foot, Lieut. Atkinson, slightly.—7th Portuguese Caçadores, Lieut. Fred. Cesar de Trutus, slightly.—11th Portuguese Line, Captain Joze de Forrisca Pinto, slightly.—23d ditto, Ensign F. de Paiva, slightly.

March 20.—*Wounded.*—Royal Engineers, Lieut. Wright, slightly.—1st Batt. 95th Foot, Lieut. Frrer.

March 21.—*Wounded.*—1st Batt. 43d Foot, Capt. Johnston, slightly.—1st Batt. 88th Foot, Lieut. North, severely, since dead.—21st Portuguese Line, Captain Joaquim Carrette, slightly.

March 22.—*Wounded.*—1st Batt. 52d Foot, Ensign George Hall, severely.

March 24.—*Killed.*—5th Foot, Lieutenant Fairclough.—*Wounded*—45th Foot, Lieut. Metcalf, slightly.—9th Portuguese Regiment, Capt. Mathias Jose De Souza, slightly.

March 26.—*Killed.*—87th Foot, Brigade-Major Wild.—Royal Engineers, Capt. Mulcaster.—45th Foot. Lieut. Atkins.—74th Foot, Capt. Collins and Lieut. Ramage.—88th Foot, Lieut. Johnson.—Portuguese Artillery, Capts. Jallin Cezar and Pera de Armoral.—*Wounded.*—Royal Artillery, Lieut. Grimes.—Royal Engineers, Brigade Major M'Leod and Capt. Holloway, severely.—43d Foot, Capt. Ferguson, slightly.—45th Foot, Capt. Lightfoot and Lieut. Metcalf, slightly; Lieuts. Marsh and Andrews, severely.—52d Foot, Capt. Ewart, slightly; Ensign Nixon, severely.—74th Foot, Major Shawe and Lieut. Lister, severely.—77th Foot, Major Rudd, severely.—83d Foot, Hon. Capt. Powys, severely; Ensign Hackett, dangerously.—88th Foot, Capt. Oates, severely.—94th Foot, Capt. Kyle, severely.—1st Portuguese Cacadores, Lieut. Joze Maria St. Viles.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

J. F. Harrison and Co. Webbe-street, Southwark, merchants.
J. and J. Mayor, Leadenhall-street, merchants.
J. Clark, Brunswick-place, Deptford, mealman.
J. Crowther, Manchester, innkeeper.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Bradley, Scarborough, Yorkshire, merchant.
C. Flude, Weymouth-terrace, Hackney, bill-broker.
R. Rogers, Clare-court, Drury-lane, broker.
E. Rogers, Orange-street, Leicester-fields, victualler.
G. P. Carruthers, Strand, lottery-office-keeper.

J. Basket, Sheffield, York, file-maker.
F. Wright, Rathbone-place, Middlesex, upholsterer.
J. P. Collins, High-street, Surrey, grocer.
J. Tennant, Wigmore-street, Middlesex, stay-maker.
T. Fitch, Love-lane, Aldermanbury, silk-manufacturer.
W. Sea, Sittingbourn, Kent, coal-merchant.
J. Greatorex, New-road, Middlesex, wine-merchant.
R. Cox, George-street, Deptford, dealer and chapman.
R. Porter, Derby, straw-bonnet-manufacturer.
J. Graham, Gloucester-street, Queen-square, tailor.
J. Smith, Birmingham, grocer.
R. Holcroft, jun. Warrington, Lancashire, draper.
J. Clemence, Northumberland-street, Mary-le-bone, builder.
H. Rideout, Woolwich, cheesemonger.
W. Bishop, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, mercer.
W. Bowler, Manchester, broker.
R. Foxton, Manchester, butcher.
W. Rumfitt, Duke-street, St. James's, tailor.
S. Parr, J. Leigh, and R. Parr, Tilsdley with Shackerly, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturers.
C. and W. Veal, Petersfield, brewers.
T. Dodgson, Cheapside, warehouseman.
S. Wade, Rawden, Yorkshire, grocer.
L. W. Spilsbury, Fetter-lane, London, grocer.
J. Wilkins, Hackney, Middlesex, mariner.
D. Rankin, Liverpool, cooper.
R. Little, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, linen-draper.

The pressure of PARLIAMENTARY MATTER excludes various Communications intended for this day's Paper.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, APRIL 13.

No certain news and indeed no rumour of importance has been in circulation during the past week. The anxieties of the country are at present wrapped up in what is passing at home, where the public mind is at one minute disgusted with the proceedings of the ruling powers, and at the next agitated and afflicted with the sufferings of the lower orders, which have at length risen to a most alarming pitch in consequence of the scarcity of subsistence and the want of a foreign market. The Ministers and their adherents challenge their opponents with unfairness in attributing these misfortunes to the conduct of the war, and refer us to PROVIDENCE for one of the wants experienced, and to the obstinacy of the FRENCH EMPEROR for the other. But it has been proved and acknowledged, that grain has gone out of the country before the vigilance and paternal care of the Ministers knew that there was a want of it; and if the obstinacy of the French Emperor means any thing, it means that he is holding out against a similar obstinacy on our parts, for we will not relax, and he will not relax, so that there is a run on the part of the two Governments, to see which will keep up the longest against the cries and necessities of their subjects. And the Ministers really think that BONAPARTE will relax first. The very man, whom they are denouncing every day, and justly so, as one who does not care an atom for the sufferings of his people provided he has an object to obtain by them! Into what a dilemma do they plunge their own humanity by this mode of reasoning:—but human nature! human nature! Look into that, and you see at bottom all the causes of these inconsistent and ridiculous pleas for continuing to do wrong. The attempt to hold out in this absurd contest was a favourite measure with Ministers, and how are they to contrive to hint to themselves that it was a foolish one? or rather, having hinted this to themselves, how are they to contrive to acknowledge it? Such a candour, however beautiful and noble in individuals, has been always held in an unfavourable light by the larger wisdom of corporate bodies. It was so with the delay in the island of Walcheren; it was so with all Mr. PITT's coalitions and wars, and so it will be to the end of the present long, foolish, and melancholy chapter.

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The Southampton frigate, Capt. YEO, has captured a large frigate belonging to the Black Government of St. Domingo, after a terrible slaughter on the part of the Blacks.—This is a strange business, and may lead to bad consequences.—And there is a report, that an English frigate has alone captured in the Adriatic a French ship of the line, the Rivoli, of 80 guns, going to Corfu with stores, after a severe contest.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 114.

LYCEUM.

The New Comedy of Sons of Erin, or Modern Sentiment.

THIS little theatre continues to rise in superiority over its huge rival, with respect to the production of new pieces. Yesterday week it presented us with one of the best comedies that has appeared for some time. It is called the *Sons of Erin*, or *Modern Sentiment*, and is said to be from the pen of Mrs. LEFANU, sister of Mr. Sheridan, a lady who might reasonably be expected to have a portion of genius about her, being literary on every side of relationship, brother's, father's, mother's, grandfather's, and great-grandfather's. The story is simple and pleasing. *Fitz-Edward* (DE CAMP), a young Irish gentleman, clandestinely marries into a family who have an antipathy to his countrymen, and having soon reduced his fortune to nothing by his inexperience and reckless generosity, is reduced to the necessity of looking about him for a subsistence. Coming to England for this purpose, and meeting accidentally with a young lady of quality, his cousin (Miss DUNCAN), she recommends him, under a concealed name, as an amanuensis to *Miss Ruth Rivers*, an elderly and learned maiden, who is his father-in-law's sister, and resides with the very family from which his wife's marriage had alienated her. They are, of course, unacquainted with the person of their new inmate, who is represented as an amiable as well as an honourable man; and the consequence is, that after a short time, he not only becomes the confident of *Mr. Rivers* (POWELL), and succeeds in extricating *Mrs. Rivers*, his young second wife (Mrs. EDWIN), from a dangerous sentimental intimacy with a libertine of fashion, but engages the tender affections of *Miss Ruth* herself, and so recommends himself in every way to every body, that they are all agreed in wishing he was one of the family, and exclaim, what a different thing it would have been, if their daughter had married such a man as this! At this fortunate juncture, *Mrs. Fitz-Edward* (Miss BOYCE), comes over to join her husband in England, and after meeting with some little jealous vexations, owing to the blunders of an Irish servant (JOHNSTONE), who had wondered at the intimacy between his master and his fair cousin, and to the partial perusal of a letter which falls into her hands, is enabled to make her peace with the family in consequence of the good offices of a generous old uncle (DOWTON). It

is however not a very cordial one, for they are all under a delusion with regard to the character of her husband, who is supposed to have added to his national offences by deserting her. *Miss Ruth*, in the mean time, has made actual proposals of marriage to her amanuensis, who in receiving them equivocally contrives to procure from her a written testimonial of her good opinion; and thus secured against all objection, he makes his appearance in the final scene. The sight of his wife rouses all the tenderness and enthusiasm of his heart, and raising his head and opening his arms with an effusion of conjugal love, the enraptured antique takes the address to herself and opens her arms likewise, when to her utter dismay as well as to the delighted surprise of all present, he rushes by her into the embrace of her niece. *Miss Ruth*, upon her recovery, starts some little difficulty at first upon receiving the sad fellow directly into her confidence; but a little side explanation between her and the gentleman, who with a graceful spirit returns the written character she gave him, converts her angry tones into a faltering though complete testimony to his merits, and the all-conquering Hibernian is left, unobstructed and acknowledged, to the enjoyment of his well-earned remunerations.—There are no very striking or bold marks of dramatic genius about these incidents, nor indeed about the characters or language of the piece; but it has a very decided superiority over the general run of modern comedies in a certain air of good-breeding which is diffused over it; there is also a great deal of sound sense exhibited in the formation of the characters; the language, though not to be compared with that of Mr. Sheridan's comedies in terseness and pregnancy, is polite and appropriate; and the main feature of the story is, to me at least, an original one. The sound sense, to which I allude as exhibited in the characters, regards not only their general management, which bears evident proof of a right attention to nature, but such parts in particular as give the piece it's second title of *Modern Sentiment*,—to wit, a libertine full of a selfish non-chalance, who inveigles a married woman into an imaginary platonism,—the lady who is thus inveigled by means of her vanity, enlivened perhaps with a little consciousness of her comparative youthfulness as a wife,—and a plain spoken, warm-hearted old gentleman, the uncle above-mentioned, who is evidently brought forward by way of contrast to the usual ridiculous idea of generosity on the stage, and neither gives away hundreds to every beggar he meets, nor chuses to have what he does give considered as any thing extraordinary. The exercise of a well-directed and rational charity he justly considers as a duty, the omission of which is very wicked, while the performance of it is nothing very virtuous: and accordingly, while he acts up heartily to his benevolence, he is rather pained and humiliated than otherwise to hear himself applauded for so doing. There is something extremely solid, as well as attractive, in the idea of this character, and highly calculated to raise one's respect for the mind that formed it. The other and principal title,—*The Sons of Erin*,—points out the laudable and seasonable intention of the fair writer to do away the lingering prejudices with regard to the character of her countrymen. It is well imagined and pursued; and though nothing is really proved in favour of a country or a set of opinions by setting them off to advantage in the person of an accomplished hero, since any country or set of opinions may be well or ill painted on this principle, yet it is quite justifiable and proper to overturn gross and unmixed prejudices by favourable specimens of what they condemn; and while the frank and cordial features of Irish character will never want a proper appreciation from sensible people, those who condemn without having studied them, will find sufficient answer and refutation in the national portraits of Mrs. Lefanu.

With the exception of De Camp, who with his feeble thick voice and insignificant manner always makes a sorry figure in upper parts, the principal characters are justly performed. Dowton throws his usual fine breadth of feeling into the sound-hearted uncle, who disdains affectation and flattery. Miss Duncan has a good opportunity, as a lively and elegant young widow, of shewing her skill in distinguishing high spirits from a noisy vulgarity. Johnstone, with his air of sturdy simplicity and trusting good humour, is all his old whim and quaintness in the Irish servant. Wrench is good in the indifferent man of fashion, which just suits his careless outline of style. Even Miss Boyce, in her Irish husband, has found a Pygmalion at last to warm her into life, and is really something more than a pretty statue in the scene where she reads the letter. It is a pity she cannot get rid of her trick of frowning, which spoils a nice set of features, and a turn of head and countenance that might be made very winning and picturesque. But as to Mrs. Edwin, who has talents enough to excite one's best wishes for her success, she has indulged herself to such an excess in a certain deep and pithy tone of importance, with which she delivers out her words like a lecture, that she has quite lost sight of that natural mode of speaking and various familiarity, which at former times she has appeared so well to understand. Whenever she looks gravely, and is going to speak, with her head on one side and her finger raised up, she seems about to utter the same sort of words, and to deal forth such phrases as, "Let me tell you, Mr. Jenkins," or, "Really, it is incumbent on me to assure you, Mr. Blenkinsop."—Let her think of this fault, with the good sense she appears to possess, and learn how to obtain more effect by toiling after less.

The piece, thus written and thus performed, goes off with the success it deserves. Some political allusions are eagerly caught up by the audience; and the following in particular has obtained three distinct rounds of applause:—"In families, as in governments, make sure of the women, and your business is done."

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ALARMING RIOTS.

Several fresh instances of the perturbed state of the population have occurred during the past week, and some lives have even been lost in the tumults. The poorer classes throughout the empire are unquestionably suffering privations of the most painful nature; but it is really lamentable to find that there are Englishmen weak enough to suppose that the destruction of private property is the way to remove their sufferings and supply their wants.—Such proceedings can arise only from *ignorance*; and it is not too much to assume, that had the plan of general education promulgated by Mr. Lancaster,—though so much reviled by the lazy and the intolerant,—been carried into effect some years ago, no such foolish and disgraceful acts would have taken place.—At the same time, it should not be forgotten, that these mistaken men are really in want

of employment and bread; and in considering their crime, let due allowance be made for their sufferings.

On Thursday se'nnight, the extensive cloth manufactory of Mr. Foster, of Horbury, near Wakefield, was surrounded by a large body of armed men, who, proceeded to break into that part of the mill appropriated to the dressing of cloth, where they completely destroyed all the shears and frames, and demolished all the windows. They also broke into the scribbling mill and weaving shops, materially injured the machinery, wantonly damaged a quantity of warp, and destroyed not merely the glass of the window, but the frames, the windows, the counting-house, and even the dwelling-houses contiguous. A detachment from the main body invested the dwelling-house occupied by Mr. Foster's sons; they proceeded to the lodging-room of the young men, and demanded the keys of the building under pain of instant death. They dragged two of them out of bed, and tied them together, making them lie naked upon the floor. The dwelling-house occupied by the book-keeper was also broken into, and his family treated with the most brutal violence, and they afterwards set fire to the building, but which was happily extinguished, after their departure, but not before very considerable damage had been done.—A number of armed men, seen with their faces covered, entered the work-shop of Mr. Smith, of Snowgate-head, near Holmfirth, and broke all his dressing frames and shears.—They proceeded from thence to Horn Coat, entered the dressing shop of Mr. Joseph Brook, and not content with breaking his frames and shears, which they entirely destroyed, they broke and demolished his household furniture and all the windows. From thence they proceeded to Reims, near Honley, about three miles further, where they entered the workshop of Mr. James Brook, and broke one frame.

On Saturday week, the mill of Mr. Cartwright, at Rawfolds, near Littletown, was attacked by the Luddites, or Snappers, who commenced their attack by the firing of arms and the beating of hammers and hatchets. The guard in the mill instantly repelled the assault by a well-directed discharge of musquetry from within. A regular engagement succeeded, which continued from 15 to 20 minutes, during which time not fewer than 140 shot were discharged from within. The assailants were foiled in their attempt to force the windows or doors, and did no other damage than break the glass windows of the mill. The deluded mob did not escape unhurt. Two of the unhappy men were left wounded upon the spot, and there is great reason to believe that several more received the contents of the defenders' muskets, as traces of blood have been observed. John Booth, a tinner's apprentice, at Huddersfield, died after having his leg amputated. Samuel Hartley, a cropper of Huddersfield, was shot through the breast and died. Both died without making any confession of their accomplices.

At Sheffield, on Tuesday forenoon, a numerous assemblage of the populace, men, women, and children, took place in the principal streets. The leaders held a few minutes' consultation, and the whole body then proceeded, with violent exclamations, to the town-magazine, which they immediately forced open, and carried off, or destroyed, in a few seconds, the whole of the arms and ammunition, &c. on which they could lay their hands. No attempt whatever was made by any of the mob to arm themselves. No time was lost on the part of the Magistracy to quell the tumult. After every possible exertion was made to sooth the populace by means of expostulation and entreaty, and the people seeming determined not to disperse, the military quartered the in town were called out, and remained under arms, expecting every moment to be ordered to charge through the streets. Happily, however, there was no occasion for such a procedure, as after the rioters had broken a few windows and carried off some potatoes from the market-place, the storm subsided. The night passed without any of those disturbances which were expected. The soldiers, however, were under arms all night, parading the streets. Cannon were placed opposite the Tontine, and every necessary precaution taken.

At Stockport, the people, in considerable numbers, on Tuesday visited several houses and factories, where they broke all before them. They then proceeded to Edgeley, in number about three thousand. Mr. Goodair's cottage was set fire to, and every thing was consumed. The mob next proceeded to the factory, where they broke the windows, destroyed the looms, and cut all the work which was in progress; and having finished this mischief, they repeated the three cheers which they gave on seeing the flames first burst from the dwelling. The cry was, "now for Sykes;" but before they could accomplish their wicked purpose some military arrived. The rioters were headed by two men dressed in women's clothes, who were called *General Ludd*'s wives.

From the accounts received yesterday morning, all was tranquil at Sheffield on Wednesday last, and no appearance of any frest disturbance so late as Thursday afternoon.—The town of Stockport too, is quiet—but some outrages, not however to any extent, have been committed in the neighbourhood.

The following is from the *Morning Chronicle* of yesterday—but the *Courier* says, "We have received no such accounts:"—

"The Wakefield Volunteers were ordered to march at two hours notice; they were to go to the westward 20 miles before they halted. At Huddersfield a body of Local Militia forced the depot of arms and seized them. The bells in every village throughout the West Riding of Yorkshire were ringing, and the utmost consternation prevailed in every quarter."

FINE ARTS.

There was a private view yesterday of Mr. WILKIE'S Exhibition, which opens to-morrow.—There are no less than twenty-nine pictures, including sketches; and considering the comparatively short period in which they have been painted, and the uncommon talent evinced, here is another proof of the folly of the assertion, that industry and genius are rarely united.—Of the works composing this delightful Exhibition, eleven have never yet been exhibited; and it is the opinion of good judges, that Mr. WILKIE'S last production, *Blindman's Buff*, in one respect at least, that of colour, surpasses any he has yet painted.—It has indeed a captivating effect.—The *Scotch Fair*, however, one of his earliest works, though undoubtedly inferior as to execution, is equally attractive in its humour and adherence to nature.—It will be a pleasing task to describe such pictures, exhibiting as they do such rare powers both of hand and head.

CITY.—COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.

A Special Court was held on Friday, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of addressing the Prince Regent on the State of the Country.—Mr. Quin opened the business in a very judicious speech, and concluded by submitting an Address to the Regent for consideration. [The Address noticed the severities endured by the people from the oppressive mode of collecting the taxes,—the number of foreign mercenaries introduced into the kingdom,—the restrictions upon the liberty of the press and upon commerce,—the hardships generally endured from the present foreign and domestic system,—&c. &c. and concluded by praying that his Royal Highness would dismiss from his Councils those Ministers who had rendered themselves unworthy the confidence of the nation, and choose men of talents and integrity, who would support a Reform in Parliament, the best remedy for all our evils.]—A debate ensued, when the Address was supported by Messrs. Blundell, Waithman, Favell, Combe, and Wood; and opposed by Messrs. Hearn, Jacks, C. Smith, Dixon, Brown, and the City Knights. On a division, there appeared for the Address, 4 Aldermen, 92 Commoners, 2 Tellers—Against it, the Lord Mayor, 10 Aldermen, 79 Commoners, 2 Tellers,—leaving a majority of six in its favour.

LAW.

COURT OF KING's BENCH.

Thursday, April 9.

GILBERT v. SYKES, BART.

Mr. PARK moved for a rule to shew cause, why the verdict for the defendant in this case should not be set aside, and a new trial granted, that verdict having been found against all the evidence in the cause. The case was tried before Mr. Baron Thompson, at the last Assizes for York; and the declaration stated, that the defendant, in consideration of the sum of one hundred guineas, promised to pay to the plaintiff one guinea per day, as long as one Napoleon Bonaparte, who was then living, should live.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH, in granting the rule, said, that he was very sorry this question would come to be argued in a Court of Law; but unless there was, in the nature of the bet, any thing of an immortal or impolitic tendency, it was a legal contract, and must be supported. He remembered having refused to try a bet between two attornies upon a point of practice, upon the ground that they had no interest in it: and other Judges had held those wagers illegal which were immoral, and even indelicate, as a bet upon a lady's person. His Lordship was not at present prepared to say upon what political principle this bet could not be supported; nor did he declare what relief might be obtained elsewhere under all the circumstances: but as the defendant went on paying the bet for three years, the fact of the contract seemed to be clearly established; and the Jury had certainly gone beyond their province in finding for the defendant.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

On Wednesday an extraordinary investigation took place. As Croker, the officer, was passing the Hampstead-road, he observed at a short distance before him two men on a wall, and directly after saw the tallest of them, a stout man about six feet high, hanging by his neck from a lamp-post, attached to the wall, being that instant tied up and turned off by the short man. This unexpected and extraordinary sight astonished the officer; he made up to the spot with all speed, and just after he arrived there, the tall man, who had been hanged, fell to the ground, the handkerchief with which he had been suspended having given way. Croker produced his staff, said he was an officer, and demanded to know of the other man the cause of such conduct: in the mean time, the man, who had been hanged, recovered, got up, and, on Croker interfering, gave him a violent blow on his nose, which nearly knocked him backward. The short man was endeavouring to make off; however, the officer procured assistance, and both were brought to the office, when the account they gave was, that they worked on canals. They had been together on Wednesday afternoon, tossing up for money, and afterwards for their clothes; the tall man who was hanged won the other's jacket, trowsers, and shoes; they then tossed up which should hang the other, and the short one won the toss.—They got upon the wall, the one to submit, and the other to hang him on the lamp-iron. They both agreed in this statement. The tall one, who had been hanged, said, if he had won the toss, he would have hanged the other. He said, he then felt the effects on his neck at the time he was hanging, and his eyes were so much swelled that he saw double.—The Magistrates expressed their horror and disgust, and ordered the man who had been hanged to find bail for the violent and unjustifiable assault upon the officer, and the short one for hanging the other.—Not having bail, they were committed to Bridewell for trial.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

A true bill was found at Clerkenwell Sessions on Friday week, on behalf of the notorious Mrs. Clarke, against one of her old legal friends, charging him with defrauding her of several sums of money.

Between four and five o'clock on Monday morning, the Highgate Tunnel fell in with a most tremendous crash, and the labour of several months, was in a few moments, converted into a heap of ruins. Some of the workmen, who were coming to resume their daily labour, describe the noise that preceded it like that of distant thunder. It was the Crown Arch, near Hornsey-lane, that first gave way, and the lane in consequence fell some feet deep, and instantly became impassible. The houses in the vicinity felt the fall like the shock of an earthquake. The number of persons whom the fineness of the weather attracted on Sunday, to inspect the works, were not less than 800. How providential that the fall was reserved for a moment when no person was on the spot, to suffer by an accident which has reduced this Herculean task to a heap of ruins.

MARRIAGES.

On Saturday week, at St. Martin's in the Fields, by the Rev. J. H. Howlett, Mr. J. M'Intosh, of the Ordance Department, to Miss Harriet Jane Humfrey, youngest daughter of the late William Humfrey, Esq. late Ordnance Store-keeper in the Island of Jersey.

Last week, in Lincolnshire, Corporal Dupree, to Miss N. Trollope, with a fortune of 12,000*l*. Miss T. fell in love with him while he was on parade with the soldiers—the next morning she communicated her sentiments to him, which he joyfully accepted, and on the following day she was led to the altar.

Sir H. Davy, the public lecturer, who was knighted at a late levee, to Mrs. Apreece.

DEATHS.

On Saturday week, in Piccadilly, Jane, Duchess of Gordon. Her Grace was the eldest daughter of Sir Wm. Maxwell, of Monteith, Bart. was born in 1749, and married to the present Duke of Gordon October 23, 1767, by whom she had, now living, one son, the Marquis of Huntley, and five daughters, viz.—the Duchess of Richmond, Lady Madelina Palmer, the Duchess of Manchester, the Marchioness of Cornwallis, and the Duchess of Bedford.

On Thursday, the 10th instant, at Islington, of a decline, Mr. Richard Watson Biggerstaff, aged 24.

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